



PATENT  
Docket No. 223002010004

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*Tamara Alcaraz*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/884,455

Filing Date: June 18, 2001

For: HEPATITIS C VIRUS PROTEASE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1652

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Box Missing Parts  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the specification as follows: